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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Letter dated 5 February 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement made by a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 4 February 2015 with regard to the recent remarks made by the "special rapporteur" on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, Marzuki Darusman, during his interview with the Associated Press (AP) on 2 February 2015.[1]

In his interview, Darusman reportedly said that "it would be the first order of the day to get these 80,000 to 100,000 (prisoners) immediately released or these camps disbanded", but "that can only happen if this ... leadership system is completely dismantled" and "is effectively displaced, is effectively removed from the scene, and a new leadership comes into place."

These most malicious remarks debase the dignity of our supreme leadership. It is nothing more than an instigation of the so-called "regime change" in the DPRK, a sovereign State Member of the United Nations.

In this regard, even AP commented in its article that "such blunt words from a high-ranking UN official are unusual, although common among American officials."

It clearly proves that Darusman, instead of being objective, has supported and aligned himself with the attempts by the forces hostile to the DPRK, including the United States, to overthrow the social system of the DPRK.

It is incomprehensible how such a person can be qualified as a United Nations official who should regard the objectivity and impartiality as the lifeline.

[1] See also "DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman Blasts Remarks of 'Special Rapporteur' of UN Human Rights Council" and "UN 'Human Rights Resolution' against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Should Be Retracted: KCNA Commentary", 4 February 2015 (available from the website of the Korean Central News Agency at www.kcna.co.jp/index-e.htm).

I strongly request you to take appropriate measures to make Darusman apologize for his improper remarks and to reconsider his qualification as a United Nations official.

I take this opportunity to reiterate that such "prison camps" mentioned by Darusman have never existed in my country and it has been proved that the story about the existence of such "camps" is only the unreliable, sheer lies based on the false testimonies by the "defectors from the north" like Sin Tong Hyok, who recently confessed that he had told lies about his past and apologized for misleading people.

It would be appreciated if you could kindly circulate my letter as a document of the twenty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council under agenda item 4.

(*Signed*) So Se Pyong

Ambassador, Permanent Representative